

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-12, 14-28 and 44-55 are pending in the subject application. Claim 44 is the sole independent claim. Claims 22-28 and 49-54 have been withdrawn. Claim 44 has been amended to incorporate the limitations previously recited in claims 12 and 17, and claims 12 and 17 have been canceled. Claims 55 and 14-16 have been amended to depend from claim 44. No new matter has been added.

In the next Office action, the Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawing figures filed on February 9, 2004 are acceptable.

Claims 1-11, 14-16, 18-21 and 44-48 are presented to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final mailed December 6, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 14-16, 19-21 and 44-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art ("the AAPA reference") in combination with U.S. Patent No. 4,544,617 to Mort et al. ("the Mort et al. reference") and objected to claims 17, 18 and 55 as containing allowable subject matter but being dependent upon a rejected claim.

B. Asserted Obviousness Rejection

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12, 14-16, 19-21 and 44-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA reference in combination with the Mort et al. reference. Claim 44 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 17, indicated as containing allowable subject matter, thereby obviating this rejection. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

C. Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 17, 18 and 55 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Sole independent claim 44 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 17. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

D. Entry of Amendment Requested

Entry of the above amendment after final is respectfully requested. The amendments to the claims either incorporate subject matter indicated as allowable into rejected claims or cancel claims. Therefore, the above amendment reduces issues and consideration thereof does not impose an undue burden on the Examiner.

E. Conclusion

Since the cited prior art references neither anticipate nor render obvious the subject invention as presently claimed, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-11, 14-16, 18-21 and 44-48 are now in condition for allowance, that claims 22-28 and 49-54 be rejoined and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

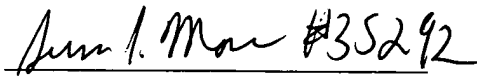
If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE & MORSE, P.C.

Date: March 1, 2006


Eugene M. Lee, Reg. No. 32,039

LEE & MORSE, P.C.
1101 WILSON BOULEVARD, SUITE 2000
ARLINGTON, VA 22209
703.525.0978 TEL
703.525.4265 FAX

**PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION**

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.